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The Sting: Winter 1988

Cedarville College

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THE STING

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A SPORTS INFORMATION QUARTERLY OF CEDARVILLE COLLEGE

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Schmidt shares faith, goals in visit to Cedarville

Mike Schmidt is certain to be enshrined in baseball's Hall of Fame following his illustrious career with the Philadelphia Phillies. His statistics prove that he is perhaps the best all-around third baseman to ever play America's game.

Schmidt ranks ninth on major league baseball's all-time homerun list and is one of only 14 players to ever hit more than 500 career roundtrippers. Eleven times he has belted 35 or more homers in a season, and the only other player to better that mark was the "Sultan of Swat" himself, Babe Ruth with 12. Number "20" also has a string of 30-homer seasons in tact at nine straight.

A three-time National League MVP and 1980 World Series MVP, Schmidt has led the N.L. in homers eight times. He holds the major league record for curcuit clouts in a season by a third baseman when he clubbed 48 in 1980.

Defense? Schmidt has accumulated 10 Gold Gloves in his career. He holds National League career fielding records at third base for double plays, assists, and total chances. The 11-time All-Star was selected in 1983 as the Greatest Phillies Player Ever in balloting by the fans. The list of accomplishments goes on and on.

Schmidt was on the campus of Cedarville College for Charter Day on January 26. He was here to address a class studying the Sociology of Sport. The Dayton, Ohio native also spoke to the entire student body during chapel that day.

Schmidt was interviewed by college president, Dr. Paul Dixon, and by a close companion of Schmidt and long-time Cedarville friend, Dr. Wendell Kempton, president of the Association of Baptists for World Evangelism. The topic in that chapel service was not the art of hitting or a discussion of the upcoming season. But, it was an opportunity for Schmidt to share his faith in Jesus Christ.

"I received the Lord back in 1977 and I can remember that exact instant the changing of personality in my life in general," Schmidt said. "I have evolved from a very self-centered young man who used to

measure himself strictly on money, fame and fortune.

"The biggest area of growth in my life since accepting Christ has been in the area of the ability to love. To know what the true meaning of love is within a relationship with a woman and a family, to be others oriented and to be dedicated to raising a family. That would have never happened to me had I not come to the Lord when I did.

"I pray as much as possible thanking the Lord for giving me this opportunity in life. I put that part of Christianity way ahead of all the professional accomplishments I've had."

Schmidt said the Lord began working in his life in the mid-1970's by sending friendships his way. One of those was that of Dr. Kempton by way of the Sunday baseball chapel program.

"I wrestled with the whole concept with the Lord being the center of my life before I was willing to commit to it," added Schmidt. "Dr. Kempton was the most influential person in that process.

"One thing I immediately learned

was that Jesus Christ could take the pressure out of your life. I was struggling at that time with the pressure of being a professional athlete and the pressure of succeeding. Today, people all over the world are dealing with pressure in many different ways. The ones who have decided to deal with the stress and pressure of life through Jesus Christ are the ones who are ultimately able

to handle it."

Schmidt realizes the awesome responsibility the Lord has given him as a person that is always in the public eye. "There's a need in society today for role models, a need for leadership, and a value of professional athletes in that role. To strive for excellence in the area of leadership is my theme for the next couple of years."



Mike Schmidt (center) answers questions from Cedarville College president Dr. Paul Dixon (left), and Dr. Wendell Kempton, president of Association of Baptists for World Evangelism, during Jan. 26 chapel service. (C.C. Public Relations photo)

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Callan's Comments

Dr. Don Callan, Athletic Director

Years ago while traveling in Japan with Coach Don Odle of Taylor University and the Venture for Victory basketball team, we visited a large wooden Buddhist temple. It was a rather typical temple with the gods made of stone and iron, priests in their traditional dress, and of course faithful worshipers and visitors like us.

As we were about to leave the temple, they directed our attention to a door way they said led to a tunnel beneath the temple. They invited us to visit the tunnel. They said it had seven steps, the number of perfection, leading down to a tunnel purported to be seven times darker than night. They indicated that the tunnel was about 20 feet wide and 60 feet long. We said it sounded interesting, but why go?

The answer took us back some because it seems the tunnel had on one of the walls a "key to eternal life." Anyone who would find the key and touch it was promised eternal life.

We did go into the tunnel and did find the "key to eternal life." We were immediately reminded that our Bible tells us of the true key to eternal life, not made of steel, but flesh and blood as Christ came to earth and as the Bible says that "whosoever believeth in Him (Jesus Christ) has eternal life." And that "it's not by works of righteousness which we have done, but by His mercy He has saved us."

My reason for relating this story is

to illustrate man's search for God and eternal life. We may not be searching in a tunnel seven times darker than night, but we may be searching for satisfaction and fulfillment through sports, fame, and fortune. Though gratifying, the accomplishments are empty and worthless when one considers death and eternity.

Recently, I have had some contact with some professional sports personalities who have achieved fame and fortune. All indicated that the fame through accomplishments is NOT the answer, but in some instances creates more problems for the individual. The bottom line for most of these individuals was the same as for man in general. "All have sinned," the Bible states, and "the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." And Christ said, "No man cometh to the Father but by me."

If you are an athlete, you know of man's frailty. We live in a spectacular world. A world of space travel, miracle cures, transplants, and computers with information exploding and expanding, yet man and his hopes, dreams, needs and desires remain the same. Be sure and use God's SURE STANDARD, the Bible, when seeking the key to eternal life.

YJC to Sponsor Golf Outing

The Cedarville College Yellow Jacket Club will be sponsoring a golf tournament this summer with the anticipation of enlarging its membership. The tournament is actually an expansion of the alumni track and cross country golf tournament initiated by Coach Elvin King two years ago.

"We wanted to expand the opportunities to all alumni athletes (male and female) and Yellow Jacket Cheerleaders," said King. "I think that this type of activity will encourage our athletes to continue to stay in contact with our program and support them in the future."

The tournament will take place on Saturday, July 16 at the Locust Hills Golf Course located just outside

Springfield with tee times beginning at 11 a.m. Entry fee is \$25 per golfer and will include greens fees, lunch after 9 holes, supper after 18 holes, awards, and tournament souvenirs.

The tournament is open to all Cedarville College alumni athletes, cheerleaders and their families, plus present Yellow Jacket Club members, athletes, and faculty-staff members from the college. All are encouraged to invite a guest.

For those interested in receiving more information on the Yellow Jacket Club Golf Tournament, please fill out the attached coupon and mail it to: Athletic Department, Cedarville College, P.O. Box 601, Cedarville, Ohio 45314.

I am interested in the 1988 Yellow Jacket Club Golf Tournament. Please send me _____ registration forms.

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Mail to: Athletic Dept., Cedarville College, P.O. Box 601, Cedarville, OH 45314.

Lady Jackets Finish as District Runner-up

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Cedarville's women's basketball team made huge strides this season which ended with a runner-up showing in the NCCAA District III tournament. Coach Bob Fires' ball club posted a respectable 13-14 record which was a vast improvement over last year's mark of 4-19. The Jackets placed third in the Western Buckeye Collegiate Conference with a 5-5 record.

"I think we showed signs of playing better as a team which can be attributed to more of a positive attitude this season," Fires remarked. "The players responded well to several personnel changes that were due to various reasons and beat some quality teams. We are very optimistic about the near future."

After edging Marion 62-58 in the

first round of the district tourney, the Jackets shocked top-seeded Mt. Vernon Nazarene 83-73 in the semi-finals at Huntington, Ind. Cedarville was then eliminated by the host team the next day.

Another impressive victory was a 75-69 decision over Defiance College, the four-time defending WBCC champion. That came after a 20-point loss earlier in the season at Defiance.

Leading the team in the final 16 games of the season was Lynn Strickland who became eligible in mid-January. The 5-8 junior averaged 17.9 points and 14.2 rebounds per game which also led the WBCC in both categories. Strickland, who was named to the all-conference first team, had many great efforts including a 32-point, 22-rebound

explosion in a game at Taylor.

A second-team choice was junior forward Chris Friesen. She was good for 14.4 points and 10 rebounds a contest. Unfortunately for Friesen, she missed seven straight games late in the year with a back injury and upon her return, her stats dropped severely.

Senior point guard Crystal Patrick was an All-WBCC honorable mention choice. She hit for 12.1 points a game, plus she nailed 37 of 81 three-point attempts for 46 percent. Junior guard Joy Fagan averaged 10.1 points.

"We need a good center to make us go," said Fires. "We have some excellent players coming back which could make us a winner next season."

Cagers Rally Down the Stretch

Cedarville won six of its last seven games to finish the men's basketball regular season with a 19-10 record heading into the playoffs. The Yellow Jackets closed out their schedule with back-to-back victories over Rio Grande and Defiance, the top two clubs in NAIA District 22. Coach Don Callan's squad placed fourth in both the district and Mid-Ohio Conference standings.

"We finished the regular season playing our best basketball of the year," Callan remarked. "Our intensity really came to the forefront in those closing games and allowed us to beat some good ball clubs. Our 29-game schedule was extremely difficult so we're happy with those 19 victories."

The Yellow Jackets led both the district and conference in scoring at nearly 90 points per game. They cracked the century mark seven times which included an Athletic Center record when they crushed visiting Ohio Dominican 126-88 on February 2.

Junior forward Tony Ewing leads the team in scoring and in thrills in '87-88. He averages 17.7 points and 7.2 rebounds, plus he has rammed home more than 30 dunks on the season. Ewing was named to the All-NAIA District 22 team, as well as to the All-MOC first team.

Senior co-captain Eddie Wakefield has provided leadership in the backcourt. His efforts have been overshadowed on more than one occasion, but his 12.5 points and 55 percent shooting from the floor have been critical to the team's success.

Senior guard Mike Freeman acquired a new role this year by seeing his scoring average cut in half from last season's 18-point average.

Still, Freeman has scored nearly 1,500 career points to rank seventh on Cedarville's all-time list.

Junior Chris Reese made a successful return from a season-ending knee injury of a year ago. He is averaging 12.4 points and has consistently been one of the top free throw shooters in the country in the NAIA. Chris hit his first 40 charity tosses this year, a string of 45 straight dating back to last year, breaking his father's (Pete) school record of 28 consecutive freebies made, first set 27 years ago. Reese has upped his career point total to better than 1,300.

Senior center Don Simerly, another 1,000-point scorer, has turned in another fine year averaging better than 10 points a game. He led the MOC in field goal percentage at just under 63 percent.

One player who made a big contribution in the season's first 25 games was senior forward Brent Baird. The 6-6 transfer was the team's leading rebounder (7.5 rpg) and was averaging 12.4 points per game when he injured his knee in a game at Mt. Vernon on Feb. 11. Baird was lost for the season.

Freshman guard Gary Harrison was inserted into the starting lineup following Baird's departure and seemed to play better than when he used to come off the bench. He leads the team in assists and steals to go along with an 8.5 points per game average. Harrison is normally on the passing end of Ewing's ally-oop dunks.

Another mainstay, whether starting or coming off the bench, has been senior co-captain John Angus. He has provided consistent muscle while averaging seven points and



Freshman guard Gary Harrison unloads another assist to all-district forward Tony Ewing (right). (C.C. Public Relations photo)

five boards.

Eight of Cedarville's ten losses were by six points or less, including two setbacks to a pair of the best teams in the NAIA in December. The Jackets led Auburn-Montgomery, later ranked number one in the NAIA, for 36 minutes in the final game of the Senators' own tournament before bowing 75-72. Waynesburg, ranked number two in the

national poll, edged Cedarville 83-79 in the Marietta tournament while the Jackets played without Ewing.

Cedarville entered post-season play after besting Rio Grande 102-86 before 2,725 fans in the Athletic Center on Feb. 20. That was followed by an impressive 82-76 decision over Defiance three nights later.

Wrestlers Place Second in NCCAA

One of the biggest success stories in Cedarville College sports history took place in 1987-88 when the wrestling program broke nearly every school record in the books. The Yellow Jackets finished as the runner-up in the National Christian College Athletic Association national tournament which was staged on campus Feb. 20, plus had the school's first winning wrestling season ever with a dual match record of 15-6.

The accomplishments are deemed even more special considering that Yellow Jacket wrestling was scrubbed from the athletics program four years ago due to lack of interest. But NCCAA Coach of the Year, Ron Comfort, along with faithful assistant Jeff Conklin, both former Cedarville wrestling standouts, revitalized the program to new heights.

The grapplers beat opponents this time around that humiliated them on more than one occasion during an 0-14 nightmare a year ago. They defeated the likes of Dayton, Wittenberg, Wilmington, Case Western, and Defiance. Plus, they were competitive in every tournament which included the first-ever wrestling tourney title for Cedarville which

came in the Urbana event.

The season peaked at the NCCAA where the Jackets finished second to powerful Olivet Nazarene. Senior 126-pound Todd Dowden won his weight class for the fourth straight year and racked up more than 30 victories on the season. He was tabbed the Outstanding Wrestler in the NCCAA meet and was given the Christian Sportsmanship Award.

Dowden's younger brother, Kurt, took the 118-pound division while 158-pound rookie Paul Link won his weight class. Both newcomers had exceptional years which will help stabilize the program in the near future.

Freshman Brian Perez was second at heavyweight in the NCCAA. Third place went to Jim Holder (134 lbs.), Phil Cruz (142), Dale Kime (150), and Russ Kime (190). Senior Kelly Moore (167) placed fourth to end a career that saw him improve to 20-plus victories this season.

"Interest in Cedarville wrestling is at an all-time high," stated Comfort. "Recruiting experienced athletes has been a key in building the program. We are counting on the positive attitude to continue in years to come."

1988 Yellow Jacket Basketball Camps

Girls Basketball (Grades 8-12)	July 11-16
Boys Basketball (Grades 5-9)	July 18-23
Boys Basketball (Grades 9-12)	July 25-30

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Fillinger, Oswald run for the top

A pair of Cedarville College runners will attempt to continue excellent seasons this spring in outdoor track. Sophomore Eric Fillinger and senior John Oswald have already established themselves as two of the best distance men that Coach Elvin King has ever had at the school.

Fillinger became the second Yellow Jacket male athlete to ever win the National Christian College Athletic Association cross country meet last November. He toured the 8,000 meters in a course record time of 24:19 at John Bryan State Park located near Yellow Springs, Ohio. It

marked the second straight year that Eric had earned NCCAA All-American honors.

Fillinger moved on to the NAIA Nationals a week later where he placed eighth overall in 24:43 to gain All-America status. It was the highest finish ever for a Cedarville runner in the meet. The only previous NAIA All-American for the Jackets in the sport came in 1976 when Brian Hull finished 25th.

Oswald finished fourth in the NCCAA meet to become a four-time All-American. He then grabbed the 25th and final NAIA All-American spot a week later. He garnered Academic All-America laurels in both the NCCAA and NAIA as well.

One other prestigious award came Oswald's way. He was the winner of the NCCAA's Wheeler Award, symbolic of the Outstanding Christian cross country runner of the year.

Both runners will move on to the 10,000 meters in outdoor track this spring. Fillinger was an NAIA honorable mention All-American in the event last year. Both also



John Oswald (center) on his way to another NCCAA All-America performance. (Photo by Mark Womack)



National champion Eric Fillinger heads for the tape at the NCCAA cross country meet. (Photo by Mark Womack)

narrowly missed All-America showings in the recent NAIA indoor meet.

SPRING SPORTS PREVIEW

Seven Cedarville College squads are preparing to open their spring seasons by the end of March. Following is a brief synopsis of what to expect from the Yellow Jackets in 1988.

Baseball

Cedarville will have to overcome a lack of depth in pitching plus inexperience at other positions if they hope to have another winning season. Good team play and solid defense will be strengths for Coach Dan Coomes' club which was 18-14 last year.

Senior righthander Dan Erlandson is the top hurler returning. He posted a 3-5 record in '87 with a 2.39 earned run average. Shane Hardy was 3-2 with a 3.06 ERA as a freshman last year.

The pitching corp was weakened when outstanding rookie Steve Hester was drafted in the 13th round by the Cincinnati Reds last June. Hester was 6-2 with a 3.66 ERA with Cedarville which ranked seventh in the NAIA nationally in earned run average at 3.77 as a team.

Senior outfielder Ken Horton is the top offensive threat coming back after hitting .381 a year ago. Senior infielder Brian Marburger had four homers and 22 runs batted in.

Golf

Coach Allen Monroe has suffered through some frustrating times in the past two years, but Cedarville College golf should be much

improved in 1988. Five solid freshmen will join veteran Mark Reed to provide a more competitive unit, plus one that is balanced from positions two through five. The lone weakness will be inexperience at the collegiate game.

Reed has been an All-NAIA District 22 selection in two of his three years. A player who will once again contend for district medalist honors, Mark placed fifth last year. He averaged 78.5 strokes per 18 holes on the season.

Cedarville's last trip to the NAIA national tournament came in 1981.

Women's Fast-Pitch Softball

Cedarville should be improved in all areas under first-year coach Bob Fires. The biggest addition of depth will come in the pitching department where Kristi Culp logged all but 20 innings last year as a junior. She had a 2.90 earned run average and a 9-12 record as an All-WBCC pick.

Two solid all-around players return in Rebecca Clifford and Chris Friesen. Clifford, a junior outfielder, batted .390 and made the all-conference team for the second year in a row. Friesen, a junior shortstop, hit .353 with 40 rbi's and ranked fourth nationally in the NAIA in doubles per game.

The Jackets posted a 10-12-1 record last season.

Men's Tennis

Cedarville Coach Murray Mur-

doch returns his top six players from last year's 38-5 team that placed 12th in the NAIA national tournament. That group was all freshmen, so Murdoch expects his squad to be more mature this spring.

The biggest improvement should be in the area of consistency. Tough competition, a schedule which includes several NCAA Division I schools, will help to prepare the Jackets for post-season tournament play.

Jeff Kohl, a sophomore from Manitowoc, Wis., was pre-season ranked 14th by the NAIA nationally in singles. He, and his five classmates, Bruce Taranger, Dino Tsiouris, Steve Brumbaugh, Steve Lesko, and Scott Poling, all won 28 or more singles matches each in 1987.

Cedarville has won 15 of the past 16 NAIA District 22 championships, and 16 Mid-Ohio Conference crowns in a row. The Yellow Jackets were pre-season ranked 13th nationally by the NAIA.

Women's Tennis

The Lady Jackets will be young at the top of the line-up and less experienced in 1988. Coach Pam Diehl says, however, that the team's overall skill level may be better than in previous years.

The squad could develop into a district contender if they mature. A tough regular season schedule will help prepare Cedarville for the district tournament.

Two All-NAIA District 22 performers return in number one player Roge' Lash, and Becky Tucker, last season's number five player.

Men's Track

Cedarville Coach Elvin King expects some excellent individual performances again this spring, especially in the long distances where the Yellow Jackets will be strongest. One major weakness will be the lack of depth in other events.

Eric Fillinger and John Oswald, both specializing in the 10,000 meters, will be the best bets to succeed. Fillinger placed seventh in the NAIA national meet in 1987 while Oswald won the event in the District 22 meet.

Lost to graduation were four-time NAIA All-American Rob Moore, and one-time All-American Tom Hill, both distance runners.

Women's Track

The Lady Jackets will be seeking their fifth straight Western Buckeye Collegiate Conference title. Coach Elvin King says there seems to be a balance of talent in all events and that the women will be competitive.

Junior hurdler Shelly Fratus is expected to be the top athlete this spring. She qualified for the semifinals in the 400 meter hurdles last year at the NAIA Nationals.

Key graduation losses are one-time NAIA All-American Esther Mahr, and high jump specialist Beth McGillivray.